



Project to define professional functions and standards in archaeological practice

National Occupational Standards for Archaeological Practice

Accredited Standards

Section E

21st March 2003

Dr Stephen Carter
Alastair Robertson



Summary of Units and Elements

Ref Unit & Element titles

E Conserve material evidence of past communities

AE1 Characterise the archaeological resource and recommend action

- AE1.1 Describe the archaeological resource
- AE1.2 Describe what data the resource has the potential to reveal
- AE1.3 Describe the potential significance of the archaeological resource
- AE1.4 Evaluate options and recommend action

AE2 Assess options for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

- AE2.1 Explore and evaluate options for conserving the archaeological resource in situ
- AE2.2 Define the risks of conserving the archaeological resource in situ
- AE2.3 Recommend strategies for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

AE3 Identify and describe archaeological items

- AE3.1 Provide a description of an item
- AE3.2 Identify and classify an item
- AE3.3 Describe the potential significance of an item as an archaeological resource

AE4 Develop conservation plans for items

- AE4.1 Explore conservation options for items
- AE4.2 Specify conservation options for items

AE5 Develop and implement preventive conservation procedures for items

- AE5.1 Specify the appropriate environment in which to maintain and protect items
- AE5.2 Monitor, evaluate and advise on the environmental protection of items

AE6 Apply preventive care procedures to items

- AE6.1 Control the environment to preserve and protect an item
- AE6.2 Monitor and modify the environment and the condition of an item

AE7 Develop and implement remedial conservation procedures for items

- AE7.1 Explore, test and develop conservation procedures to solve specific problems
- AE7.2 Minimise the deterioration of items
- AE7.3 Physically intervene to aid interpretation of items

AE8 Implement routine interventive conservation procedures

- AE8.1 Apply routine stabilisation
- AE8.2 Implement routine cleaning and repair

Unit AE1 Characterise the archaeological resource and recommend action

Elements

AE1.1 Describe the archaeological resource

AE1.2 Describe what data the resource has the potential to reveal

AE1.3 Describe the potential significance of the archaeological resource

AE1.4 Evaluate options and recommend action

Unit Commentary

This unit is for archaeologists who undertake the characterisation of any aspect of the archaeological resource (landscapes, sites, structures, objects). Characterisation involves synthesis of all the available information about the resource. If the available information is insufficient for an adequate understanding of character, it facilitates the design of work to bring that understanding up to an appropriate level. Understanding the character and significance of an archaeological resource allows due weight to be given to it in any situation threatening to damage or destroy it, whether by natural or human agency. An adequately informed understanding of the character and significance of archaeological evidence enables strategies for maintenance, repair or preservation to be devised, as appropriate to the situation that needs managing. It also enables the development of options that take account of the availability of resources and other practical considerations.

AE1 Characterise the archaeological resource and recommend action

AE1.1 Describe the archaeological resource

Performance Required

This will involve:

- a) assembling, collating and reviewing all relevant data which defines the **archaeological resource**
- b) clarifying the **purpose** for which a description of the resource is required
- c) selecting methods for describing the resource which are appropriate
- d) **describing the resource** accurately and presenting information in a format that will facilitate further action and decision making

Occupational Context

1 Archaeological resource

- Sites/ landscapes
- artefact assemblages/ structures
- databases
- research literature/ publications
- professional resource e.g. consultancy

2 Purpose

- to instruct users
- to log
- to inform supervisors
- to design protection and preservation
- to develop an application for future research/ analysis/ interpretation

3 Describing the resource

- Reconstruct the history of the resource
- Detail composition of resource
- Detail application of resource in its own context
- Describe research already carried out on this type of resource/ Describe what research still needs to be carried out

Knowledge Requirements

You need to know about:

The Resource

- Types of archaeological resource
- Significance of resource
- Ways of analysing/ approaching resource
- Different values and functional capacity of different resources

AE1 Characterise the archaeological resource and recommend action

AE1.1 Describe the archaeological resource

Required Skills

You should demonstrate:

- Presentation skills
- Observation skills

Evidence Required

You should provide evidence that you can describe the archaeological resource

The candidate should be questioned, based upon Resource Report documentation. This will provide detailed compositional and contextual information on the resource, offering statistical and qualitative data.

Evidence Rules

N/A.

AE1 Characterise the archaeological resource and recommend action

AE1.2 Describe what data the resource has the potential to reveal

Performance Required

This will involve:

- a) reviewing available data about the resource and its context
- b) identifying comparative data, wider contextual information and precedents **relevant to the resource.**
- c) where appropriate, inviting the expert opinion of others regarding both the resource and its context.
- d) synthesising the **potential of the resource** to provide significant information and contribute to wider understanding of the historic environment
- e) preparing a report which describes, substantiates and presents the findings

Occupational Context

1 Relevant to the resource

- In terms of historical period
- In terms of culture
- In terms of form, composition and content
- In terms of field/ discipline

2 Potential of the resource

- invasive / non-invasive testing
- database development
- contribution to archaeological analysis/ interpretation/ research literature

Knowledge Requirements

You need to know about:

Data sources

- Types, range, variety
- Application and usage
- Compositions
- Related analysis methods
- Associated research/ professional expertise

Data Analysis

- Types and methods
 - Outputs
 - Measures
 - Requirements and limitations
 - Application to research
- 4 Associated expertise

AE1 Characterise the archaeological resource and recommend action

AE1.2 Describe what data the resource has the potential to reveal

Required Skills

You should demonstrate:

- Report writing and presentation skills
- Communication skills

Evidence Required

You should provide evidence that you can describe what data the resource has the potential to reveal

The candidate should be questioned on documentary evidence which describes, substantiates and presents the potential of the resource.

- This should be in the form of a written report.

Evidence Rules

N/A.

AE1 Characterise the archaeological resource and recommend action

AE1.3 Describe the potential significance of the archaeological resource

Performance Required

This will involve:

- a) reviewing all available data on the archaeological resource and its context
- b) defining the **criteria** by which significance will be determined.
- c) applying the criteria to determine the basis of **advice to interested parties**
- d) preparing a report assessing the significance of the resource

Occupational Context

- 1 Criteria will take account of:**
 - international, national and local policies
 - legal, regulatory constraints
 - historical significance
 - cultural importance
 - economic potential
 - social/amenity value
 - potential costs and benefits of taking further action
- 2 Advice to interested parties on**
 - preservation, conservation and protection
 - value and worth
 - safety and security
 - investment
 - presentation, exhibition, display and public dissemination
 - contacts, advisory, communicative and professional channels/ networks
 - related research/ accession in the field
 - future developments

Knowledge Requirements

You need to know about:

Resource potential

- Resource profiling
- Investigation requirements: human and material resources
- Legislative, statutory and funding regulations
- Organisational direction and policy

Presentation methods

- According to different user requirements (learning, research, education, entertainment, investment)
 - According to different social and cultural profiles of the audience
 - According to own professional and archaeological competencies
- 4 According to company or organisational policy and performance strategy.

AE1 Characterise the archaeological resource and recommend action

AE1.3 Describe the potential significance of the archaeological resource

Required Skills

You should demonstrate:

- Needs analysis
- Risk assessment
- Presentation skills

Evidence Required

You should provide evidence that you can describe the potential significance of the archaeological resource

The candidate should be questioned, based upon the Significance Report, to explore

- the existing and potential significance of the resource, including proposals for immediate and strategic action and for supporting research and analysis.

Evidence Rules

N/A.

AE1 Characterise the archaeological resource and recommend action

AE1.4 Evaluate options and recommend action

Performance Required

This will involve:

- a) assessing the **vulnerability of the resources**
- b) analysing findings from research in the context of policies, plans and resources and identifying significant factors affecting **future action**
- c) devising options for action most likely to optimise the recovery of data and the conservation of the archaeological resource
- d) where appropriate, consulting those with expert knowledge on the **viability** of alternative courses of action
- e) preparing proposals, plans and comparative estimates for alternative courses of action
- f) presenting options for action to interested parties and justifying preferred course of action

Occupational Context

- 1 Vulnerability of the resources**
 - ownership of the resource
 - condition of resource
 - location and environment
 - constraints on access
 - public interest and media coverage
 - strain on financial and human resources
 - legalities and funding/ statutory regulations
 - risk factors
- 2 Future action in terms of**
 - presentation/ dissemination
 - further research
 - intrusive investigation
 - conservation
 - policy change
 - organisational strategy
 - contribution to the discipline
- 3 Viability**
 - financial
 - political
 - ethical
 - strategic

Knowledge Requirements

You need to know about:

Options

- Policies and legal affecting future action
- Which experts and specialists to contact for further information
- Previous courses of action
- Types of analysis
- Audience: interests, access restrictions, presentation methods, motivations and requirements of interested parties

AE1 Characterise the archaeological resource and recommend action

AE1.4 Evaluate options and recommend action

Required Skills

You should demonstrate:

- Evaluation and analysis techniques
- Communication skills
- Risk assessment techniques

Evidence Required

You should provide evidence that you can evaluate options and recommend action

The candidate should be questioned, based upon the documentation provided, to explore the following

- Proposals, plans and comparative estimates including evidence of extensive research.
- Statistical information detailing cost
- Qualitative information demonstrating recognition of public or professional reception and speculations upon interest and developments.

Evidence Rules

N/A.

Unit AE2. Assess options for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

Elements

AE2.1 Explore and evaluate options for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

AE2.2 Define the risks of conserving the archaeological resource in situ

AE2.3 Recommend strategies for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

Unit Commentary

This unit is for archaeologists who are responsible for making assessments of the archaeological resource and recommending strategies for in situ conservation of landscapes, sites or structures. This is based on an agreed characterisation and significance of archaeological evidence. Understanding the character and significance of an archaeological resource allows due weight to be given to it in any situation threatening to damage or destroy it, whether by natural or human agency. An adequately informed understanding of the character and significance of archaeological evidence enables strategies for maintenance, repair or preservation to be devised, as appropriate to the situation that needs managing. It also enables the development of options that take account of the availability of resources and other practical considerations.

AE2. Assess options for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

AE2.1 Explore and evaluate options for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

Performance Required

This will involve:

- a) Confirming with interested parties the **purpose and key objectives** for conserving the **archaeological resource** in-situ
- b) Reviewing the **opportunities and constraints** that will influence the selection of options
- c) Assessing the extent to which action can be taken within existing policies, plans and resources
- d) Devising options for action most likely to optimise the value of the archaeological resource in situ
- e) Where appropriate, consulting those with **expert knowledge** on the viability of alternative courses of action
- f) Preparing proposals and plans for alternative courses of action
- g) Presenting options for action to interested parties and justifying a preferred course of action

Occupational Context

- 1 Purpose and key objectives**
 - archaeological significance
 - environmental considerations
 - cultural significance
 - public access
 - economic potential
- 2 Archaeological resource**
 - landscapes
 - sites
 - structures
- 3 Opportunities and constraints may include:**
 - ownership of the resource
 - location
 - constraints on access
 - public opinion
 - cost factors (capital, revenue and maintenance costs, grants, potential income generation)
 - legal and regulatory factors
 - risk factors
- 4 Expert knowledge**
 - Within archaeology (e.g. wetlands archaeologist, historic buildings advisor)
 - External to the discipline

Knowledge Requirements

You need to know about:

Legal, political, economic, social, cultural and historical impacts

The range and requirements different kinds of resources and their situations and locations:

- Ownership and status
- Environmental conditions
- Public/ research access
- Exposure

AE2. Assess options for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

AE2.1 Explore and evaluate options for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

Required Skills

You should demonstrate:

- Analytical skills
- Writing proposals

Evidence Required

You should provide evidence that you can explore and evaluate options for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

The candidate should be questioned, based upon the documentation provided, to explore

- written proposals for alternative courses of action

Evidence Rules

The candidate should have been involved in at least 2 contrasting sites.

AE2. Assess options for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

AE2.2 Define the risks of preserving the archaeological resource in situ

Performance Required

This will involve:

- a) Ensuring that the process of risk assessment covers all relevant **areas of potential risk**
- b) Seeking appropriate **sources of information** and advice
- c) Preparing a risk assessment that establishes the potential consequences of and their likelihood of occurring singularly, and where relevant, in combination
- d) Preparing an overall **appraisal** which addresses the acceptability of risk

Occupational Context

1 Areas of potential risk

- damage / deterioration / loss of the resource
- exhaustion of supplied resources: timescale for action, finances, human resources
- health and safety
- environmental
- financial
- legal/ political

2 Sources of information

- statutes/ regulations and related guidance
- technical guidance/research reports
- business/commercial guidance
- from professional institutions and regulatory bodies
- previous research projects which demanded specific attention to risk, i.e. experience in the field.

3 Appraisal

- qualitative and experiential review
- statistical/ quantitative data
- projections and forecasts
- categories/ ranking of risk factors

Knowledge Requirements

You need to know about:

Risk

- Risk theory
- Qualitative and quantitative risk assessment
- Risk identification and classification: practical and immediate risk/ long term costs/ outcomes and impacts and consequences
- Models of risk management

Organisation

- Attitude to risk: organisational culture
- Capacity for handling risk: human, financial and time resources
- Strategy and risk: legislative policy and procedures, authoritative structure and responsibility for management

Data

- Information sources – internal, external
- Legislation

(c) Organisational and industry recommended response options

AE2. Assess options for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

AE2.2 Define the risks of preserving the archaeological resource in situ

Required Skills

You should demonstrate:

- Writing risk assessments and appraisals
- Effective decision making under uncertainty

Evidence Required

You should provide evidence that you can define the risks of preserving the archaeological resource in situ

The candidate should be questioned, based upon the documentation provided, to explore

- the form of risk assessments, detailing identified and classified risk in relation to specific resource management

Evidence Rules

The candidate should have been involved in at least 2 contrasting sites.

AE2. Assess options for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

AE2.3 Recommend strategies for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

Performance Required

This will involve:

- a) agreeing objectives and priorities for conserving the **archaeological resource**
- b) assess **factors** which will influence a programme of continuing maintenance of the resource
- d) identifying and assessing **opportunities** which may be beneficial to the maintenance and use of the resource
- e) estimating resources required for the maintenance of the archaeological resource
- f) where appropriate, obtaining advice and estimates from others to support recommendations
- g) verifying that proposals are compliant with relevant policies and plans
- h) preparing a strategic plan for implementation that takes full account of available resources and includes budgets, targets and milestones
- i) presenting and justifying plans to interested parties.

Occupational Context

1 Archaeological resource

- landscapes
- sites
- structures

2 Factors

- policies and legislation
- financial resources
- location and accessibility
- climate and exposure
- planting and grounds maintenance
- other uses on the site (e.g. agriculture)
- protection of features and maintenance of structures
- site safety, security and structural stability
- site services and facilities

3 Opportunities

- changes in land use
- linkage with other sites and activities
- public amenity
- tourism
- educational use
- research potential

Knowledge Requirements

You need to know and understand how to:

- Prioritise the conservation of different parts of the resource, and which factors should be taken into account

You need to know about:

The archaeological resource

- The condition of the resource
- The status of the resource: ownership, identity, classification, stability, longevity
- Its preservation requirements and its vulnerability
- The relationship to its environment
- Its contribution to the discipline

Maintenance strategy

- The opportunities it presents
- Its resources and capacities
- Financial, technical and recruitment costs
- The factors that are taken into account when selecting between different conservation options
- How the conservation options would differ if the resource were used in different ways, or kept in different conditions

The location

- Access and availability
- Role in the community
- Stability
- Environmental conditions
- The available conservation options

AE2. Assess options for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

AE2.3 Recommend strategies for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

Required Skills

N/A

Evidence Required

You should provide evidence that you can recommend strategies for conserving the archaeological resource in situ

The candidate should be questioned, based upon the documentation provided, to explore

- the procedures for recommending strategies for conserving the archaeological resource in situ.

Evidence Rules

The candidate should have been involved in at least 2 contrasting sites.

Unit AE3 Identify and describe archaeological items

Elements

AE3.1 Provide a description of an item

AE3.2 Identify and classify an item

AE3.3 Describe the potential significance of an item as an archaeological resource

Unit Commentary

This unit is for archaeologists who are required to have knowledge of a class of items or specific groups of items, e.g. curators, conservators, finds officers. It includes people who have to identify and describe items either in their own organisation or in the collections of others.

This unit covers describing the items, which involves examining them in an appropriate fashion, and then describing their features and how they relate to other items as well as identifying items, i.e. stating what they are (as far as is possible), and providing a rationale for how the identification has been made.

AE3 Identify and describe archaeological items

AE3.1 Provide a description of an item

Performance Required

This will involve:

- a) Examining the **item** without putting it at risk
- b) Summarising accurately the history, significance, age and provenance of the item in sufficient detail to meet the requirements of **users**
- c) Describing accurately any unusual and distinctive features of the item
- d) Describing clearly the item's relationship to other **relevant items**
- e) Describing accurately the item's condition and the care it needs
- f) Recording descriptions in **formats** that are suitable for users
- g) Complying at all times with health and safety procedures

Occupational Context

1 Items

- Incomplete/complete
- Undamaged/damaged
- Artefacts
- structures

2 Users

- curators
- education officers
- conservators
- archaeologists
- collectors

3 Relevant items

- in technical or compositional context
- in a historical or temporal context
- in a situational or geographical context
- in a social or cultural context
- in an interpretational context

4 Formats

- Graphical/ visual
- Verbal/ written
- Formally documented
- Attractively/ educationally described

Knowledge Requirements

You need to know and understand how to:

- Research further relevant information e.g. on previous owners ; on other similar items
- Access information on conservation needs, including interpreting conservation reports
- Describe the item for different people and purposes
- Use and combine description formats, e.g. photographs and text

You need to know about:

Risk

- The normal and specific risks to the item
- The examination processes that cause the least risk to the item

Supplementary research

- Where to locate data, how to access it
- Presentation of complimentary research information

Interpretation/ Description for an audience

- The normal features of the class of item
- What people wish to know about the item
- The problems involved with identifying incomplete items

Health and Safety regulations and requirements

AE3 Identify and describe archaeological items

AE3.1 Provide a description of an item

Required Skills

You should demonstrate:

- Handling fragile items

Evidence Required

You should provide evidence that you can provide a description of an item

The candidate should be questioned, based upon the documentation provided, to explore how they

- supply a description of complete, damaged or incomplete items.

The description should be written, with photographic records and illustrations where necessary.

Evidence Rules

N/A

AE3 Identify and describe archaeological items

AE3.2 Identify and classify an item

Performance Required

This will involve:

- a) Examining the item without putting it at risk
- b) Collecting all available **information** relevant to the identification of the item, and assessing the information for its reliability
- c) Assessing any **deficiencies or discrepancies** in the information and seeking reasons for them
- d) Identifying accurately any unusual and distinctive features of the item
- e) Identifying clearly the item's relationship and significance to other **relevant items**
- f) Using all relevant information to identify the item
- g) Identifying the item clearly and providing a justification for the identification
- h) Recording the results of the identification process accurately and clearly in an **appropriate format**

Occupational Context

1 Information

- location of discovery
- associated find data
- composition/ features
- historical/ cultural/ educational significance

2 Deficiencies or discrepancies

- lack of specificity in identification
- inconsistencies in historical profile
- unknown or unreliable sources
- inconclusive explanations

3 Relevant items

- in technical or compositional context
- in a historical or temporal context
- in a situational or geographical context
- in a social or cultural context
- in an interpretational context

4 Appropriate format

- as part of a portfolio/case log book
- within site record system
- for purposes of explicit presentation and interpretation
- in terms of its immediate or long term use

Knowledge Requirements

You need to know and understand how to:

- Assess the reliability of information, and to identify discrepancies
- Provide a justification for an identification, and what people need to assure them of its accuracy
- Record the results of the identification
- Use and combine description formats, e.g. photographs and text

You need to know about:

Research Resources

- Supplementary information sources that must be explored include: previous owners/holders, libraries and archives, databases, people such as colleagues, publications and other similar sources

Methods of identification

- Where to find the main sources of information on types of item
- What information is normally required to identify an item
- The level of accuracy that is likely from the sources investigated

Classification systems

- The normal features of types of items classified

AE3 Identify and describe archaeological items

AE3.2 Identify and classify an item

Required Skills

You should demonstrate:

- Research and comparative skills

Evidence Required

You should provide evidence that you can identify and classify an item

The candidate should be questioned, based upon the documentation provided, to explore how they identify an item and determine its features and significance.

Evidence Rules

N/A

AE3 Identify and describe archaeological items

AE3.3 Describe the potential significance of an item as an archaeological resource

Performance Required

This will involve:

- a) Examining an item without putting it at risk
- b) Collecting all available **information** relevant to the identification of the item and assessing its reliability
- c) Assessing **discrepancies** in the information and seeking explanations
- d) Accurately identifying **complex features** of the item
- e) Clearly identifying the item's **relationship and significance to other items** in its group
- f) Using all available information to identify the item
- g) Clearly identifying the item wherever possible and providing a rationale for the identification
- h) Accurately and clearly recording the results of the identification process in an **appropriate format**

Occupational Context

1 Information

- location of discovery
- associated find data
- composition/ features
- historical/ cultural/ educational significance

2 Deficiencies or discrepancies

- lack of specificity in identification
- inconsistencies in historical profile
- unknown or unreliable sources
- inconclusive explanations

3 Complex features

- composition and state
- status and ownership
- risk
- value
- utility and function

4 Relationship and significance to other items

- in technical or compositional context
- in a historical or temporal context
- in a situational or geographical context
- in a social or cultural context
- in an interpretational context

5 Appropriate format

- as part of a portfolio/case log book
- amongst site records
- for purposes of explicit presentation and interpretation
- in terms of its immediate or long term use

Knowledge Requirements

You need to know and understand how to:

- Synthesise information

You need to know about:

Potential significance in archaeological terms

- Contribution to research, understanding and knowledge base
- Contribution to reputation and profile of the organisation
- Contribution to organisational/ local/ national archive collections, inventories and databases

Research and information systems

- Developments in information :technology/ capabilities of IT systems - Such as the national collections database
- Sources: organisations, experts, previous item holders, publications, the organisation's collection, catalogues, reference works and written reports
- Access and availability of resources: recording, and storage procedures, classification systems
- Purposes of research: research strategy, methodology, techniques, and body of research
- Methods for analysing information

Classification

- Items' history and significance
- Scope and content of classified collection
- History of class of item
- Features and qualities of class of item

AE3 Identify and describe archaeological items

AE3.3 Describe the potential significance of an item as an archaeological resource

Required Skills

You should demonstrate:

- Research and comparative skills

Evidence Required

You should provide evidence that you can describe the potential significance of an item as an archaeological resource

The candidate should be questioned, based upon the documentation provided, to explore how they identify an item and determine its features and significance

Evidence Rules

N/A

Unit AE4 Develop conservation plans for items

Elements

AE4.1 Explore conservation options for items

AE4.2 Specify conservation options for items

Unit Commentary

This unit is for archaeological conservators, people who are required to have knowledge of a range of items or specific groups of items as well as having expert knowledge the potential conservation problems that may be encountered with such items, whether individually or in groups and collections.

Once an item has been assessed, it is necessary to identify a suitable conservation plan for the item to ensure that it is properly conserved. There are likely to be a number of conservation options for the item, and it is important that each of these is considered, and that the option that is selected is the most suitable. This unit covers identifying conservation options that potentially have the capability of conserving the item and selecting the most appropriate conservation option in agreement with others.

AE4 Develop conservation plans for items

AE4.1 Explore conservation options for items

Performance Required

This will involve:

- a) Reviewing and collating the available information on the key aspects of and risks to the **items**
- b) Exploring a range of potential **conservation options** and assessing any new approaches for their effectiveness
- c) Taking into account present and future environmental conditions affecting the items
- d) Identifying solutions to conservation problems
- e) Taking into account the items' integrity, the expected role and use, and the resources of the owner
- f) Identifying and assessing the limitations, risks and effects of all conservation options
- g) Identifying clearly the **resource implications** of the conservation options
- h) Testing the materials and treatment methods correctly to ensure their suitability
- i) Adapting conservation procedures where necessary and collecting information on their use

Occupational Context

1 Items

- Unstable/stable items
- Moderately/seriously degraded items
- Incomplete/complete
- Undamaged/damaged

2 Conservation options

- Remedial or preventive
- In situ/ off-site
- Stabilisation / environmental conditioning or not
- Maintaining open access or with specific security

3 Resource implications

- Cost and finances
- materials/ equipment
- time
- research/ administrative/ technical support
- internal/ external professional expertise
- accommodation/space

Knowledge Requirements

You need to know and understand how to:

- Record information on the application of new approaches, and why it is important to disseminate it

You need to know about:

Conservation Options:

- The appropriate amount of information and level of detail required to identify conservation options
- The environmental conditions likely to affect the item
- The most valuable sources of information on new conservation options
- Why the particular options have been examined
- How ethics affect the choice of option

Strategic planning:

- The costs and resource implications of different conservation options, and how they can be assessed for a specific item
- The health and safety implications of different conservation options
- The likely effects of the present and future use of the item

AE4 Develop conservation plans for items

AE4.1 Explore conservation options for items

Required Skills

You should demonstrate:

- Risk assessment
- Consultation skills

Evidence Required

You should provide evidence that you can explore conservation options for items

The candidate should be questioned, based upon the documentation provided, to explore how they

- explore conservation options for items and collections that are moderately or seriously degraded and for at least one unstable item.

Evidence Rules

The candidate should have developed plans for a range of items typical of their work area.

AE4 Develop conservation plans for items

AE4.2 Specify conservation options for items

Performance Required

This will involve:

- a) Ensuring the **conservation options** meet the requirements of the items and the owner
- b) Ensuring that **relevant parties** understand the outcome, risks and resource implications of the selected options
- c) Ensuring the conservation options can be implemented within the specified **resource constraints**
- d) Identifying clearly the advantages, disadvantages and limitations of each option
- e) Recommending and agreeing preferred options with all relevant parties
- f) Recording clearly the selected options and disseminate them to the appropriate people
- g) Planning the use of resources and the timescale for implementing the selected options
- h) Developing a suitable conservation plan and record it in an appropriate format

Occupational Context

1 Conservation options

- Remedial or preventive
- In situ/ off-site
- Stabilisation / environmental conditioning or not
- Maintaining open access or with specific security

2 Relevant parties

- Funding, legislative and statutory bodies
- Management and supervision
- Expert professional advisors
- Contractors
- owner/ occupiers
- record-keepers/ database managers
- maintenance staff
- curators
- education officers

3 Resource constraints

- Cost and finances
- materials/ equipment
- time
- research/ administrative/ technical support
- internal/ external professional expertise
- accommodation/space

Knowledge Requirements

You need to know and understand how to:

- Draw up a conservation plan for other people to follow
- Record a conservation plan, and the appropriate formats

You need to know about:

Conservation Options

- The factors that are taken into account when selecting conservation options
- How the conservation options would differ if the item was used in different ways, or kept in different conditions
- Why the specific conservation options were chosen

Conservation Planning

- The specified resource constraints for the item
- Who are the relevant people that need to be consulted on the selection decision
- Who should be aware of the conservation plan, and the level of detail that they need

AE4 Develop conservation plans for items

AE4.2 Specify conservation options for items

Required Skills

N/A

Evidence Required

You should provide evidence that you can specify conservation options for items

The candidate should be questioned, based upon the documentation provided, to explore how they

- specify conservation options for items that are moderately or seriously degraded and for at least one unstable item.

Evidence Rules

The candidate should have developed plans for a range of items typical of their work area.

Unit AE5 Develop and implement preventive conservation procedures for items

Elements

AE5.1 Specify the appropriate environment in which to maintain and protect items

AE5.2 Monitor, evaluate and advise on the environmental protection of items

Unit Commentary

This unit is for archaeological conservators; people who are required to have knowledge of a range of items or specific groups of items in archives or collections, as well as having expert knowledge of the potential conservation problems that may be encountered with such items.

Once a conservation option has been selected it has to be implemented. One type of option is the application of preventive conservation procedures. This involves the specification of an appropriate environment for the protection of the item and advising on how to ensure the environment is protecting the items concerned. The specific complexities of the items must be taken into account during this process. This unit covers specifying a suitable environment for the item, evaluating how well the item is being protected and advising on how this situation can be maintained.

AE5 Develop and implement preventive conservation procedures for items

AE5.1 Specify the appropriate environment in which to maintain and protect items

Performance Required

This will involve:

- a) Identifying the items' appropriate **environmental requirements** in accordance with the selected conservation option and plan
- b) Monitoring the existing environmental conditions in the intended location accurately over a suitable period
- c) Identifying as quickly as possible any **evidence** that the environment is not suitable for the items
- d) **Exploring and testing** the application and effect of existing and new materials and procedures, and modifying them if necessary
- e) Assessing accurately the resources to implement specified procedures and passing details to the **relevant people**
- f) Drawing up specifications and procedures to control and monitor the items' environment in consultation with the appropriate people
- g) Determining and implementing suitable specifications for protecting items during use, storage, display or transportation
- h) Communicating with building engineers, architects, surveyors and designers of the items' environmental requirements, and establishing **monitoring procedures**
- i) **Recording and disseminating** recommendations and procedures according to requirements

Occupational Context

1 Environmental requirements

- controlled temperature/humidity
- controlled/ limited light
- air quality: clean, pollutant-free
- protection from pests
- protection from shock/ vibration
- use of biological and chemical agents

2 Evidence

- change in composition/ coloration/ size/ shape
- discharge, radio activity, etc
- measurements such as temperature

3 Exploring and testing

- under controlled conditions
- using accurate measurement and data analysis
- under appropriate observation/ supervision
- using appropriate equipment and procedures

4 Relevant people

- supervisors/ managers
- professional experts/ consultants
- resource suppliers
- process delivery agents
- training providers
- maintenance and support staff
- researchers

5 Monitoring procedures

- measuring instruments
- observation/ supervision/ inspection
- regular/ frequent/ 24hrs
- in conjunction with security where appropriate

6 Recording and disseminating

- using a technical information management system/ database/ telecommunications
- using formal face to face/ interactive reporting
- through written documentation
- through graphical/ visual/ verbal presentation

Knowledge Requirements

You need to know and understand how to:

- Draw up specifications for the control of the item's environment
- Draw up guidelines and procedures for monitoring the item's environment
- Select packaging and display materials, and handling procedures

You need to know about:

Appropriate environments

- The equipment that is available to monitor the environment
- How the location's environment can be accurately monitored, and the principal factors to monitor

Specification and planning

- What is in the conservation plan, and the parameters for action
- The indications that an environment is not suitable for the items
- The factors that need to be considered during transit
- Who are the appropriate people to inform about the items' environment
- The health and safety procedures for the available treatments

AE5 Develop and implement preventive conservation procedures for items

AE5.1 Specify the appropriate environment in which to maintain and protect items

Required Skills

You should demonstrate:

- How to identify the item's appropriate environmental requirements
- setting up procedures for monitoring the item's environment
- How to respond to adverse environmental conditions
- How to assess resources necessary for the implementation of environmental monitoring procedures

Evidence Required

You should provide evidence that you can specify the appropriate environment in which to maintain and protect items

The candidate should be questioned, based upon the documentation provided, to explore how they

- specify the appropriate environment in which to maintain and protect items and collections.

Evidence Rules

The candidate should have been developed and implemented a range of preventive conservation procedures typical to their work area.

AE5 Develop and implement preventive conservation procedures for items

AE5.2 Monitor, evaluate and advise on the environmental protection of items

Performance Required

This will involve:

- a) Establishing schedules and procedures for monitoring and maintaining the environmental protection and condition of items, and evaluating their **effectiveness**.
- b) Ensuring schedules and procedures for monitoring and maintaining the environment of the items are correctly implemented
- c) Identifying as quickly as possible any evidence of instability or change in the items and any other indications that the environment is not suitable, and taking **appropriate action**
- d) Implementing ongoing conservation procedures according to schedule
- e) Taking appropriate action when specifications for the environmental protection and condition of items are not being met
- f) Ensuring the records of the monitoring process are clear and accurate
- g) Complying at all times with health and safety procedures

Occupational Context

1 Effectiveness

- efficient protection and maintenance of condition
- in terms of costs and benefits of resources and their outputs
- in relation to strategy expectations, targets and milestones

2 Appropriate action

- removal from/ adjusting environment
- improving monitoring, observation, inspection and measurement procedures
- appropriate for resource capacity
- appropriate for item requirements
- appropriate for organisational policy and culture
- appropriate for the objectives of the discipline and for contribution to it

Knowledge Requirements

You need to know about:

Monitoring and Evaluation

- How the location's environment can be accurately monitored, and the principal factors to monitor
- The indications that an environment is not suitable for the items

Advising

- The action that can be taken if the environment is not suitable for the item
- Who are the appropriate people to inform of any problems
- The health and safety implications of the available treatments
- The implications of an inappropriate environment.

AE5 Develop and implement preventive conservation procedures for items

AE5.2 Monitor, evaluate and advise on the environmental protection of items

Required Skills

You should demonstrate:

- Observation skills and attention to detail
- Record-keeping and data analysis skills
- Communication skills

Evidence Required

You should provide evidence that you can monitor, evaluate and advise on the environmental protection of items

The candidate should be questioned, based upon the documentation provided, to explore how they

- monitor, evaluate and advise on the environmental protection of items.

Evidence Rules

The candidate should have been developed and implemented a range of preventive conservation procedures typical to their work area.

Unit AE6 Apply preventive care procedures to items

Elements

AE6.1 Control the environment to preserve and protect an item

AE6.2 Monitor and modify the environment and the condition of an item

Unit Commentary

This unit is for archaeological conservators or conservation technicians, people who are required to have knowledge of a range of items or specific groups of items and the potential conservation problems that may be encountered by such items.

Once a conservation option has been selected it has to be implemented. One type of option is for the application of preventive care procedures to items. This involves ensuring that the environmental conditions are appropriate for the items concerned and that systems are in place to monitor and maintain the environment of the items.

AE6 Apply preventive care procedures to items

AE6.1 Control the environment to preserve and protect an item

Performance Required

This will involve:

- a) Identifying the item's **environmental requirements** in accordance with the conservation plan
- b) Monitoring the existing environmental conditions in the intended location accurately over a **suitable period**
- c) Identifying as quickly as possible any evidence that the environment is not suitable for the item
- d) Determining and implement suitable methods to modify the item's environment where necessary
- e) Implementing procedures for the **handling and physical protection** of the item
- f) Recording and disseminating descriptions of all actions taken to recover control of the item's environment, making recommendations where necessary
- g) Consulting a conservation specialist when further action is required

Occupational Context

Environmental requirements

- controlled temperature/humidity
- controlled/ limited light
- air quality: clean, pollutant-free
- protection from pests
- protection from shock/ vibration
- use of biological and chemical agents

2 Suitable period

- Suitable for the monitoring requirements
- Suitable for the item's stability
- Suitable for the available resources

3 Handling and physical protection

- Concerning fragility of the item
- concerning stability of the item
- concerning movement and transfer
- concerning safety and security
- concerning environmental conditions
- concerning human error

Knowledge Requirements

You need to know and understand how to:

- Draw up specifications for the control of the item's environment
- Draw up guidelines and procedures for monitoring the item's environment

You need to know about:

The item

- The existing recommendations for the item
- The indications that an environment is not suitable for the item

The Environment, location and physical situation

- How the environment can be accurately monitored, and the principal factors to monitor
- The equipment available to monitor the environment, and how to use it

Protection Strategies and Procedures

- Who are the appropriate people to inform about the item's environment
- Why it is important to keep appropriate records
- What could be considered to be suitable packing, storage and display materials
- The appropriate handling requirements

AE6 Apply preventive care procedures to items

AE6.1 Control the environment to preserve and protect an item

Required Skills

You should demonstrate:

- Observation skills and attention to detail
- Dexterity in handling unstable items
- Communication
- Accurate measuring and data analysis skills

Evidence Required

You should provide evidence that you can control the environment to preserve and protect an item

The candidate should be questioned, based upon the documentation provided, to explore how they

- modify the environment to preserve and protect items that are moderately degraded

Evidence Rules

The candidate should have been involved in applying preventive care procedures to a range of items typical to their work area

AE6 Apply preventive care procedures to items

AE6.2 Monitor and modify the environment and the condition of an item

Performance Required

This will involve:

- a) Establishing suitable procedures for **monitoring** and maintaining the environment and the condition of the item
- b) Carrying out procedures for monitoring and maintaining the **environment of the item** according to specification
- c) Identifying as quickly as possible any evidence of **instability or change** in the item and any other indications that the environment is not suitable for it, and take appropriate action
- d) Taking appropriate action when specifications for the environmental protection and condition of items are not being met
- e) Ensuring the records of the monitoring process are clear and accurate

Occupational Context

1 Monitoring

- measuring instruments
- observation/ supervision/ inspection
- regular/ frequent/ 24hrs
- in conjunction with security where appropriate

2 Environment of the item

- temperature
- light
- air quality
- stability/ vibration
- chemically un/ treated

3 Instability or change

- change in composition/ coloration/ size/ shape
- discharge, radio activity, etc
- measurements such as temperature

Knowledge Requirements

You need to know about:

Modifying environmental conditions of an item

- The existing recommendations for the item
- How the environment can be accurately monitored, and the principal factors to monitor
- The indications that the environment is not suitable for the item
- What action can be taken if the environment is not suitable for the item
- Who are the appropriate people to inform of any problems
- The implications of an inappropriate environment

AE6 Apply preventive care procedures to items

AE6.2 Monitor and modify the environment and the condition of an item

Required Skills

You should demonstrate:

- Contingent planning

Evidence Required

You should provide evidence that you can monitor and modify the environment and the condition of an item

The candidate should be questioned, based upon the documentation provided, to explore how they

- monitor and modify the environment and the condition of an item.

Evidence Rules

The candidate should have been involved in applying preventive care procedures to a range of items typical to their work area

Unit AE7 Develop and implement remedial conservation procedures for items

Elements

AE7.1 Explore, test and develop conservation procedures to solve specific problems

AE7.2 Minimise the deterioration of items

AE7.3 Physically intervene to aid interpretation of items

Unit Commentary

This unit is for archaeological conservators; people who are required to have knowledge of a range of items or specific groups of items, as well as having expert knowledge of the potential conservation problems that may be encountered with such items, collections or archives.

Once a conservation option has been specified it has to be implemented. One type of option is the application of remedial conservation procedures. This could involve a range of professional interventive procedures depending on the condition of the item, and the type of action being agreed by the owner or keeper. The specific complexities of the items must be taken into account during this. This might also involve the need to explore and test options that have not been used by the candidate or have not been applied to that particular situation before. This unit covers exploring and testing new conservation procedures; minimising deterioration in the item, i.e. stabilising the items condition and applying interventive procedures to conserve the item.

AE7 Develop and implement remedial conservation procedures for items

AE7.1 Explore, test and develop conservation procedures to solve specific problems

Performance Required

This will involve:

- a) Identifying clearly the conservation problems to be solved and agreeing them with all **relevant people**
- b) Identifying and reviewing the effectiveness of existing conservation procedures and materials in the specific situation
- c) Reviewing any relevant **sources of information** for appropriate solutions and ideas
- d) Modifying, testing and developing techniques
- e) Recording data generated by the testing of the conservation procedures and materials accurately in the appropriate format
- f) Ensuring the information provided to others to support the new procedures is complete and accurate
- g) Accurately assessing the **resources** that are required to implement the new procedures
- h) Carrying out **risk** assessments for all the materials and procedures involved in the selected conservation procedures, and determining whether the procedures are acceptable on health and safety grounds.
- i) Comply at all times with the Health and Safety precautions determined by the risk assessments.

Occupational Context

1 Relevant people

- Other conservators' members of the archaeological team
- Conservation/materials scientists
- Item specialists
- Health and safety advisors
- Organisational/professional representatives
- Funding/statutory/regulatory bodies

2 Sources of information

- Publications/abstracts
- Databases/internet
- Bibliographies/research catalogues and indexes
- Professional expertise/consultation
- Experience or articles/written reports of previous solutions and ideas
- Conservation records
- Suppliers and manufacturers

3 Resources

- Human: administrative and technical report as well as professional/ experiential expertise
- Financial resources
- Technical resources: material and equipment

4 Risk

- Relating to personnel
- Relating to archaeological items/ artefacts/ sites/ structures/ landscapes
- Relating to the exhaustion, depletion or restriction of resources
- Relating to the capacity, reputation, integrity, culture and professionalism of the discipline

Knowledge Requirements

You need to know and understand how to:

- Apply research methods for developing new techniques, including the use of controls
- Record, interpret and apply the results of the testing

You need to know about:

Conservation

- Conservation problems which require exploration
- The existing conservation procedures and materials that are available to resolve the problems

Information sources

- Networks, directories, authorisation, channels of communication
- The most relevant sources of information
- Ways of accessing resources

The health and safety issues and implications of different conservation procedures, and how to comply with appropriate regulations.

AE7 Develop and implement remedial conservation procedures for items

AE7.1 Explore, test and develop conservation procedures to solve specific problems

Required Skills

You should demonstrate:

- Observation and Risk Assessment skills
- Data interpretation
- Planning

Evidence Required

You should provide evidence that you can explore, test and develop conservation procedures to solve specific problems

The candidate should be questioned, based upon the documentation provided, to explore how they

- explore, test and develop existing conservation procedures to solve specific problems for items.

Evidence Rules

The candidate should have been developed and implemented a range of remedial conservation procedures typical to their work area

AE7 Develop and implement remedial conservation procedures for items

AE7.2 Minimise the deterioration of items

Performance Required

This will involve:

- a) Treating the items as specified in the selected conservation plan, without compromising their **integrity**
- b) Removing, reducing or neutralising potential and active agents of **deterioration**
- c) Minimising any potential or actual physical weakness, and countering its cause
- d) Minimising further deterioration by the application of the appropriate materials
- e) **Evaluating** the application and effect of the treatments and modifying them as necessary
- f) Evaluating what is required in the future to maintain the condition of the treated items and specifying a program of actions
- g) Recording the **data generated by the treatment procedures** and materials accurately and correctly in the appropriate format
- h) Complying at all times with health and safety procedures

Occupational Context

1 Integrity

- As an item from a different time/ culture
- As a representation of its origins
- As an archaeological resource for interpretation

2 Deterioration

- Biological/ physical /chemical
- Due to time/ change in conditions/ environment
- Preventable/ inevitable
- Irregular/ steady
- Gradual/ rapid
- Overtly visible/ hard to detect

3 Evaluating

- In terms of efficacy
- In terms of cost efficiency
- In terms of reliability/ sustainability
- In terms of ease and ability

4 Data generated by the treatment procedures

- Qualitative change: visual, tactile
- Quantitative/ measurable change: compositional, chemical

Knowledge Requirements

You need to know and understand how to:

- How to evaluate the effect of a treatment

You need to know about:

Conservation planning

- What is in the conservation plan, and the parameters for action
- The agents of deterioration likely to be found in the item

Evaluation and Assessment

- The weaknesses likely to be found in the item
- How the item's treatment should be monitored and measured
- The sort of data that should be recorded, and how it should be recorded

The health and safety procedures for the available treatments

The types of intervention that could be considered unethical and why

AE7 Develop and implement remedial conservation procedures for items

AE7.2 Minimise the deterioration of items

Required Skills

You should demonstrate:

- How to remove, reduce or neutralise potential and active agents of deterioration
- How to minimise weaknesses and their causes
- How to minimise deterioration by treating items with appropriate materials
- How to evaluate and modify treatments as necessary
- How to record data generated by treatments accurately and in the appropriate format

Evidence Required

You should provide evidence that you can minimise the deterioration of items

The candidate should be questioned, based upon the documentation provided, to explore how they

- minimise the deterioration of items that are moderately or seriously degraded and at least one unstable item

Evidence Rules

The candidate should have been developed and implemented a range of remedial conservation procedures typical to their work area

AE7 Develop and implement remedial conservation procedures for items

AE7.3 Physically intervene to aid interpretation of items

Performance Required

This will involve:

- a) Treating the items as specified in the selected conservation plan, without compromising their **integrity**
- b) Checking the **professional interventions** are designed to enable the items to fulfil their agreed role and use
- c) Removing or reducing material that inhibits interpretation of the items
- d) Adding **materials** which are, wherever possible, reversible, appropriate and identifiable
- e) Evaluating continually the application and effect of the interventions, and modifying them as necessary
- f) Evaluating what is required in the future in terms of conservation to maintain the condition of the items and specifying a **program of actions**
- g) Recording the data generated by the treatment procedures accurately and correctly in the appropriate format
- h) Complying at all times with health and safety procedures
- i) Communicating with the appropriate people any **new information** revealed about the item during the above procedures
- j) Ensuring that any samples of material removed are recorded in the correct format, and **correctly packed**.

Occupational Context

- 1 **Integrity**
 - As an item from a different time/culture
 - As a representation of its origins
 - As an archaeological resource for interpretation
- 2 **Professional Interventions**
 - Minor consolidation
 - Major reconstruction
 - Removal of accretions.
- 3 **Materials**
 - Chemical/structural
 - Altering/supportive
 - Additional/replacement
- 4 **Program of actions**
 - Strategic monitoring
 - Planned intervention inspections
 - Observation and measurement
 - Ordering and administering intervention materials
 - Management and supervision
- 5 **New information**
 - Concerning composition
 - Concerning environmental origin
 - Concerning status: ownership/ stability/ vulnerability
- 6 **Correctly packed**
 - For its identification
 - For its protection
 - For reference
 - For its potential later use

AE7 Develop and implement remedial conservation procedures for items

AE7.3 Physically intervene to aid interpretation of items

Knowledge Requirements

You need to know and understand how to:

- Ensure that additions to the item can be reversed
- Evaluate the effect of the treatment

You need to know about:

The Item

- Its conservational needs
- Its sample's packaging requirements
- Future additional information about it

Planning Professional Intervention

- What is in the conservation plan
- What material can be removed from the item, and from where on the item
- The methods that should be used for removing or reducing materials and accretions on the item
- How the item's treatment should be monitored
- The sort of data that should be recorded, and how it should be recorded

The health and safety implications of the available treatments

Required Skills

You should demonstrate:

- Dexterity in handling, sampling, packaging, applying materials.
- Observation and attention to detail.
- Accurate data recording

Evidence Required

You should provide evidence that you can physically and professionally intervene to aid interpretation of items

The candidate should be questioned, based upon the documentation provided, which will include

- evidence of the treatment of a number of items (in the form of records)
- graphical and statistical depictions of change
- strategic plans for professional intervention.

Evidence Rules

The candidate should have been developed and implemented a range of remedial conservation procedures typical to their work area

Unit AE8 Implement routine interventive conservation procedures

Elements

AE8.1 Apply routine stabilisation

AE8.2 Implement routine cleaning and repair

Unit Commentary

This unit is for archaeological conservators or conservation technicians, people who are required to have knowledge of a range of items or specific groups of items and the potential conservation problems that may be encountered by such items.

Once a conservation option has been selected it has to be implemented. One type of option is for the application of routine interventive conservation. This could involve a range of routine interventive procedures depending on the condition of an item, and type of action being agreed by the owner or keeper. This unit covers minimising deterioration in the item by implementing routine interventive stabilisation procedures and routine cleaning and repair.

AE8 Implement routine interventive conservation procedures

AE8.1 Apply routine stabilisation

Performance Required

This will involve:

- a) Working to a conservation plan agreed by a conservator
- b) **Treating** the items, without compromising their integrity, in accordance with the agreed conservation plan
- c) Removing, reducing or neutralising potential and active **agents of deterioration**
- d) Minimising further deterioration by the application of the appropriate materials
- e) **Evaluating** what is required in the future to maintain the condition of the treated item
- f) Recording the treatment procedure accurately and correctly in the appropriate format

Occupational Context

1 Treating

- Structure: Supporting/repairing
- Composition: Chemically analysing/changing form
- Appearance: masking, highlighting, preserving, exaggerating, cleaning, restoring.

2 Agents of deterioration

- Environmental: exposed location, etc
- Biodeterioration: insects, fungus, plant growth etc
- Atmospherically: weathering, light etc.
- Chemical imbalance/change
- Physical/structural: vibration, etc.

3 Evaluating

- In terms of efficacy
- In terms of cost efficiency
- In terms of reliability/sustainability
- In terms of ease and ability

Knowledge Requirements

You need to know and understand how to:

- Monitor the item's treatment

You need to know about:

Stabilisation motivation, theory and practice requirements.

What is routine about the conservational plan:

- In terms of item's requirements
- In terms of organisational function
- In terms of team/ supervisory/ managerial function
- In terms of physical intervention, stabilisation, monitoring and evaluation.

The agreed conservation plan

Treating Deterioration

- The agents of deterioration likely to be found in the item
- The weaknesses likely to be found in the item
- The available protective and preservative procedures, and which is most effective for the item
- The sort of data that should be recorded and the appropriate format
- The health and safety implications of different routine treatments
- How the effect of the treatment can be evaluated

AE8 Implement routine interventive conservation procedures

AE8.1 Apply routine stabilisation

Required Skills

You should demonstrate:

- Proficient handling of chemicals
- Dexterity in the handling of fragile and unstable items and structures
- Data collection and monitoring

Evidence Required

You should provide evidence that you can apply routine stabilisation

The candidate should be questioned, based upon the documentation provided, to explore how they

- minimise the deterioration of items that are moderately or seriously degraded and at least one unstable item.

Evidence Rules

The candidate should have been involved in Implementing routine interventive conservation procedures to a range of items typical to their work area

AE8 Implement routine interventive conservation procedures

AE8.2 Implement routine cleaning and repair

Performance Required

This will involve:

- a) Working to a conservation plan agreed by a conservator
- b) Treating the item, without compromising its integrity, in accordance with the agreed conservation plan
- c) Removing or reducing material which inhibits the interpretation of the items
- d) Adding **materials** to effect **repair**
- e) Only making additions that are reversible, appropriate and identifiable
- f) Assessing the application and effect of the intervention, and notifying the **appropriate person** in the event of **unforeseen effects**
- g) Evaluating what is required in the future to maintain the condition of the treated item
- h) Recording the treatment procedure accurately and correctly in the appropriate format

Occupational Context

- **Materials**
 - Chemical/ Structural
 - Altering/ Supportive
 - Additional/ replacement
- 2 **Repair**
 - Restoration/ Renewal
 - Chemical/ structural
 - Surface/ compositional
- 3 **Appropriate person**
 - Conservation/materials scientists
 - Item specialists
 - Health and safety advisors/emergency staff
 - Site officials/management
 - Organisational/professional representatives
 - Funding/ statutory/regulatory bodies

4 Unforeseen effects

- Chemical / structural
- Damage/ disintegration/ decay
- Unexpected stabilisation, exacerbated renewal
- Behavioural/ functional/ visual/ compositional change

Knowledge Requirements

You need to know and understand how to:

- Monitor the item's treatment
- Evaluate the effect of the treatment

You need to know about:

What is routine

- What is in the conservation plan and the parameters for action
- Who is the recognised conservation specialist

Cleaning and repair processes

- What material can be removed from the item, and from where on the item
- The methods and materials that should be used for removing or reducing materials and accretions on the item

Evaluating treatment

- What tests can be applied to the item
- The type of data that should be recorded
- The health and safety procedures for the available treatments
- The methods and materials that could be used for repair

AE8 Implement routine interventive conservation procedures

AE8.2 Implement routine cleaning and repair

Required Skills

You should demonstrate:

- Dexterity in cleaning and repair skills and use of technical material
- Handling with due care and attention
- Observation, analysis and attention to detail

Evidence Required

You should provide evidence that you can implement routine cleaning and repair

The candidate should be questioned, based upon the documentation provided, to explore how they

- clean and repair items that are moderately or seriously degraded and at least one unstable item in order to aid their interpretation.

Evidence Rules

The candidate should have been involved in Implementing routine interventive conservation procedures to a range of items typical to their work area